



**DRAFT Meeting Notes**  
**NEIWPCC GW/SWP Workgroup Meeting**  
Monday, March 28, 2016  
Via Conference Call

**Workgroup Participants Via Call-in:**

Eric McPhee, CT DPH    Kim Czapla, CT DEEP    Kathy Romero, MA    Paul Susca, NH DES    Mitch Locker, NH DES  
Pierce Rigrod, NH DES    Jane Thapa, NY DOH    Clayton Commons, RI    Lorraine Joubert, RI    Kira Jacobs, EPA R1  
Ted Lavery, EPA R1    Andrew Stone, AGWT    Deirdre Mason, ASDWA    Jane Ceraso, NEIWPCC  
Jaclyn Harrison, NEIWPCC    Monica Kacprzyk, NEIWPCC

**Presentation**

**DWMAAPS Overview and Demo**

*Ted Lavery, EPA Region 1*

- If you would like a copy of the presentation, please contact Monica.
- Ted will contact EPA HQ and request their participation at a future workgroup meeting to solicit comments and suggestions.
- ASDWA is submitting comments to EPA HQ, so states are welcome to share their comments with Deirdre Mason.
- There is interest in training opportunities around the objectives of the new DWMAAPS tool.

**Discussion: Well Water Supply**

*Andrew Stone, Executive Director of AGWT, is interested in knowing whether or not New England states have rules, recommendations, or requirements for planning boards/towns to require developers to “prove” the availability of a well water supply before providing permission for construction of individual homes that will be supplied by a water well. Developers are traditionally optimistic about groundwater reliability and in many cases do not adequately invest in well construction and equipment. There is an idea to evaluate and give value to under-developed lands based on water potential.*

*Related to proving supply reliability, do any New England states have specific yield testing protocols for newly drilled private wells? These are tests that the driller would perform and record at the time of well construction. Most so called-tests on private wells at existing homes are nothing more than a test of the pump – not of the aquifer.*

- (Pierce) Under the NH’s planning statutes, there is authority under the subdivision laws that allows municipalities to regulate development and make sure subdivisions have adequate water supply. The attached document provides a good summary of the statutes and options for regulating private well water quantity. The state also has a model they did not release. They have not published the municipal guidance but MA does have something already published that addresses quantity. Please see this document. The state also has statewide minimum yield requirements if a well is hydrofractured.
- (Kathy) Under Massachusetts General Law, (MGL Ch.111 s.122) local Boards of Health have primary jurisdiction over the regulation of private wells. The local BOH is empowered to adopt a private well regulation that establishes criteria for private well siting, construction, water quality and quantity. So, the requirements vary by town. In towns with private well regulations, usually the building inspector does not sign off on an occupancy permit until the Board of Health signs off on their requirements. DEP does not regulate private wells but has a private well guideline and model private well regulation available.
- (Lorraine) In RI, guidelines for yield are set at the state level. Here are two examples: West Greenwich and Coventry.
- (Jane) NY well drillers are regulated by DEC and every well that’s drilled has to follow the well yield test. All well drillers need to be registered and trained and water quality is regulated by counties/towns. There can also be a bank lender requirement to ensure that there is adequate water supply.

## **State Updates**

### **CT**

- (Eric) DPH hired a consultant to take GPS points during sanitary surveys and create a solid inventory of wells and parcels associated with them. The agency hopes to better protect land around drinking water sources with their new inventory.
- DPH is doing capacity analysis for facilities through a report card ranking that includes two questions: 1) Does the system own or control the sources of supply (75, 150 or 250 ft)?, and 2) Does the system have a site map for potential sources of contamination? The answers to these questions will be put in GIS with a color-coded score card ranking for small communities so the agency can flag areas where technical assistance is needed. The scorecard is based on EPA guidance but the questions are weighted differently.
- There is public interest in the expansion of a natural gas pipeline through the Hartford watershed.
- (Kim) Businesses in well head protection areas are submitting their registration renewals, so the state is doing site visits and identifying and assisting businesses that are not in compliance.
- DEEP is developing a web-based E-learning program for wellhead protection training that will be online by the end of the year. The online training program will provide a basic primer on groundwater and wellhead protection, and it will be followed-up by in-person regional meetings to answer questions and provide program updates.

### **MA**

- (Kathy) DEP is producing a series of short (5-10 minute) source water protection videos in-house. They are posted on DEP's training website.
- DEP is short-staffed so it's difficult to prioritize source water protection work.

### **ME**

- No ME representatives participated on the call.

### **NH**

- (Pierce) The Annual NHDES Drinking Water Source Protection Conference will take place on May 11, 2016. Please see the agenda posted [online](#).
- The DES AST Program continues to coordinate with the SPCC Program at EPA and Granite State RWA on source water protection efforts.
- (Paul) There is interest in doing community-wide private well testing events, so Paul has been doing presentations on that throughout the state.
- PFOA is frequently mentioned in the NH news, so DES is recommending private well owners to test their water for suggested parameters.
- The last NH Arsenic Consortium Meeting has 70 people in attendance and focused on arsenic exposure from well water.

### **NY**

- (Jane) Jane Thapa is moving to the Professional Certification Section of her department, so [Paul Kaczmarczyk](#) will be the new GW/SWP Workgroup representative.
- The state has PFOA and VOC issues and they are collecting private well samples.
- The state has an issue with emergency water sources near potential pipeline projects. Some water bodies are considered emergency sources of drinking water and are not active right now, but would be used in the case of an emergency.
- The state developed a SPDES permit for CAFOs that is revised every five years. There is a trend towards increased restrictions on when farms can spread manure in the winter months due to annual issues with well contamination.
- The NYC DEP's Watershed Protection Program is in the beginning stages of updating regulations of onsite systems. A few issues of discussion include who is paying for what when businesses change hands, what degree

do they provide onsite treatment, lag time between city/town requested changes and updates to projects, and process streamlining.

- For stormwater permits, NYC DEP is interpreting the guidelines more strictly than the state and they are going onsite to review stormwater management plans.
- There is interest in learning more about the challenges of paying for watershed services. NYC is a flagship example and the agency is gauging responses from other towns.
- The agency has \$13.5 billion in funding for a competitive grant program to implement BMPs on farms.

#### **RI**

- (Clay) DOH is working on source water delineations for the state.
- The agency is holding workshops in early May regarding sustainable utility management and technical capacity.

#### **VT**

- No VT representatives participated on the call.

### **EPA Updates**

- (Ted) Large solar projects are being proposed in the region and the agency is doing sole source aquifer reviews for them. This is an emerging issue and a potential topic for discussion at a future meeting.
- (Kira) As part of Gina McCarthy's Making a Visible Difference in Communities campaign, the City of Lawrence requested and received funding for a Merrimack River project on assessing drought and flooding considerations for City of Lawrence treatment plant.
- The LISS RCPP Project is ongoing among the six states involved. DWMAPS will inform the GIS information being built and the project will be largely focused on surface water rather than groundwater. The Forest Reserve Program plans to help with source water protection efforts. NRCS is working with NFW to develop the draft RFP for land conservation projects that land trusts would be applying for and the RFP will be released in May.
- EPA is working with Vermont DEC, VRWA, and the state geologist to host a series of source water protection workshops for town planners.
- A potential topic for a future workgroup discussion is how states are working with town planners.
- The National Source Water Collaborative has a new Innovation Challenge coming out soon to put together a clearinghouse of data on contaminants that are not regulated but might be helpful for assessing WQ criteria and impact on drinking water systems.

### **NEIWPCC Updates**

- (Jaclyn) As mentioned in previous meetings, NEIWPCC is partnering with MassDEP and DFS on a project to protect public health and the environment by reducing and planning for chemical risks from ASTs. NEIWPCC contacted DFS and obtained appropriate fire department contacts for the towns within the project area. Staff reached out to fire departments in five towns including Lowell, Lawrence, Andover, Methuen, and Tewksbury for information on ASTs containing fewer than 10,000 gallons within 400 feet of public drinking water intakes along the Merrimack River. [Jaclyn Harrison](#) is the lead on storage tanks at NEIWPCC and she is working on identifying ASTs and working with the local fire departments.
- (Monica) NEIWPCC has been restructuring its programs and staff and one change that will affect the GW/SWP Workgroup is my transition to focus more on stormwater and climate change. Jaclyn Harrison is taking over Monica's position as the workgroup coordinator. Jaclyn has been working on the AST project and she's been at NEIWPCC for about 6 years, so she's very experienced with workgroups and has an extensive background in USTs, ASTs, PPCPs, and drinking water issues. She is currently on maternity leave and will be back in June. Please welcome Jaclyn Harrison!
- NEIWPCC is working closely with CT DEEP, CT DPH, CT OPM and the CT Public Utilities Regulatory Authority on the development of a State Water Plan for Connecticut. NEIWPCC will be overseeing the hiring of a contractor and oversight on progress on the development of the State Water Plan for Connecticut.

### **Next Meeting**



- The next GW/SWP Workgroup meeting will be held in the late summer/early fall 2016. **Jaclyn will follow-up with a doodle poll to schedule the next meeting.**

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